Even today, after 23 years, we are experiencing the continuous environmental disaster in this area. Apart from immediate deaths of nearly 10,000 people within 72 hours, this has caused further estimated 18,000 to 20,000 deaths till today. Meanwhile, the population in this area is forced to consume groundwater contaminated with chemicals which cause birth defects, cancer and other health related problems. The Central Government, in the year 2006, promised to rehabilitate the affected population and get the plant site cleansed of the 9000 tonnes of chemical residues in Bohpal which continue to poison people, and take the long overdue legal action against Carbide and its successor, Dow Chemical Company. The Coordination Committee on Bhopal has been constituted and met three times in two years. But none of its recommendations has been implemented. Eight thousand tonnes of chemical waste is said to have been dumped under the ground which will create another disaster and environmental hazards. I request the Government to address issues of medical, economic, social and environmental rehabilitation and provide clean water for the affected population of Bhopal.

Demand to sanction a revival package for Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels Limited, Vishakhapatnam

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): The BHPV is one of the oldest industries set up in Visakhapatnam, which plays a vital role for industrial growth in Visakhapatnam. Many auxiliary/ancillary industries have come up and they are continuously depending upon BHPV. The Company started production in 1971-72 with the turn over of Rs. 1.95 crores and crossed Rs. 300 crores in 1996-97 and contributed around Rs. 450 crores to national exchequer during the past 14 years and the company has an order of Rs. 400 crores as on 1.4.2006.

The Company has been referred to BIFR on 23.6.2004 under Sick Industrial Companies Act. The Government of India has been considering various options. The staff and workers of the unit whose lives are solely dependent on this have been representing repeatedly in this regard. The State Government has requested the Government of India for early consideration and issue favourable orders to help the organisation in execution of present orders in time which will pave way for revival and future growth.

I, therefore, urge the Government to kindly consider the request of Andhra Government.

Concern over acute shortage of power being faced by the country

SHRI S. ANBALAGAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the power situation in the country presents a grim picture. During 2007-08, the deficit in total energy availability was 8.4 per cent and the deficit in power supply in terms of peak availability was 14.8 per cent. This is the national picture. Some States, especially Tamil Nadu, face more acute power shortage than others. Rural areas face power shutdown or hours together daily. Population growth and development necessitates corresponding growth in power generation. But when we compare the percentage of growth of power production during the period April to December in the years 2006-07, we are pessimistic of the Government's plans to meet the future power needs of the country. During this period, growth of power generation declined from 7.5 per cent in 2006 to 6.6 per cent in 2007. Growth in hydroelectric power declined by 4 per cent from 13.8 per cent to 9.8 per cent. Decline in production of environment friendly hydro-electricity is not good for the country. Likewise, there is steep fall in production of nuclear power from 3 per cent in 2006 to'minus 5.7 per cent in 2007. As per National Electricity Policy, 2005, a capacity addition of 78,577 megawatts was proposed for the Eleventh Five Year Plan. But only 7,263 megawatts of generation facilities have been commissioned so far. This is high